

March 24, 2015

Senate Natural Resources Committee
Senator Casperson
Senator Pavlov
Senator Robertson
Senator Stamas
Senator Warren



Dear Senators,

The Michigan Association of Timberman formally supports Senate Bill (SB) 217 introduced by Senator Darwin Booher.

We feel that the continued strong support between the forest industry and the agriculture industry is a vital part of the economic success of our landowners statewide.

By allowing the combination of agriculture and forest acreages within the Qualified Forest/Qualified Agriculture program, it will continue to increase the participation of our small family owned land parcels in Michigan. This will allow them to be well managed for agriculture and timber needs.

Our association strongly endorses this effort to attract more landowners into forest management. It offers a continuation of renewed growth and stronger interest in land management for all needs. Opportunities such as this improves our entire state environment with better water quality practices, better soil management practices, and wiser economic practices. Well managed property benefits all, no matter whether it is for timber or agriculture.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Owen".

Brenda Owen , Executive Director